

In this his examples are in contrast to those of Dr. Benjamin, which are restricted to British and North American statistics. This variation of approach is entirely consistent with the different purposes of the two works, for Dr. Barclay is often dealing with basic elements such as birth-rates and death-rates, for which information is now available over a large part of the globe, whereas Dr. Benjamin is concerned principally with forms of disability data that are relevant only to the countries he discusses.

Demography is a broadly spreading subject with many branches rather than a deep one with complex roots, and in spite of certain disparities the two books have a number of features in common. Both devote a chapter to the life table and include reference to the construction of abridged tables of this kind. Both discuss the characteristics of most aspects of mortality and fertility studies, with copious references to work of specialists in these fields. There is also common ground in what is left out: both omit any detailed reference to marriage data, to complex fertility analysis and to the processes of population projection. But Dr. Barclay has consistently assumed a lower level of sophistication among his readers, and this is illustrated by the amount of space he has given to spelling out the elements of such processes as the calculation of ratios and rates and the use of logarithms. He also has a useful section on errors and their detection. Even so, he does not confine his observations to the simplest matters, and with the help of many footnotes carries the reader a fair way into the more developed areas of the subject. He deals at some length with population growth and distribution and with manpower and working activities, and here enters a region that is very appropriate for student demographers but which Dr. Benjamin has rightly judged to be of limited interest to public health workers.

The stage has not yet been reached—no doubt it will be one day—when the market is overstocked with books of instruction in demographic method. These new works should therefore both satisfy the groups of persons for whom they are designed and be of use to many others as well.

P. R. C.

**Huxley, Aldous.** *Brave New World Revisited*. London, 1959. Chatto and Windus. Pp. 164. Price 12s. 6d.

THIS BOOK provides further evidence that its writer deserves to be regarded as the greatest living diagnostician of the social and individual malaises which afflict the civilization of the twentieth century. The clarity of his writing and the lucidity of his thought make the perusal of such a book a real pleasure: if one pauses to read again some pregnant passage, it is not because there is anything obscure about it, but that one finds again and again so much to reflect upon in these pellucid sentences. Whereas *Brave New World* was couched in a quasi-fictional form, this sequel to it is a sober, objective discussion of the major problems which obsess the world to-day. Chief among these of course is population pressure, and in treating of this Aldous Huxley admits to feeling even less optimistic than when twenty-seven years ago he wrote *Brave New World*. He traces a causative connection between over-population and communism, for as scarcity of food and raw materials imposes economic stringency, this leads in turn to unrest and insecurity, which governments must be impelled to combat by central control and a hypertrophied system of planning. Permanent crisis as has been evident from war-time experience in democratic countries, leads to far-reaching control of everything and everybody, and when such a system is firmly riveted to any culture, that culture is not far removed from a totalitarian regime. The great enemy of human progress which lurks in the blind biological forces which impel mankind to multiply itself beyond the limits of its resources, finds itself allied with the powerful trend towards organization and concentration of economic and social power, fostered alike by science and technology. The dehumanizing effects of over-population are reinforced by over-organization, and here Huxley refers with reason to the remarkable study of William Whyte in the U.S.A., which appeared in 1957 under the title of *The Organization Man*. Over-population and over-organization must tend to produce a progressive dehumanization of man, in which the individual person becomes atomized and deprived of any sense of com-

munion and relationship in regard to other human beings. Mass man is emotionally mutilated man, and hence in the "Brave New World" it becomes necessary to practice doping of the population by narcotics, tranquillizers or what not, where the neurotic becomes the normal and the healthy mind in the healthy body a rare and aberrant form.

The author has screened much scientific and medical literature for evidence as to the impending dangers of chemical persuasion, brainwashing and subconscious propaganda through the media of television and cinema.

When he comes to discuss what should be done by way of counter measures against the drift towards disaster, one is conscious of how extremely difficult, to say the least, it must be to seek through education, the inculcation of a more realistic set of values and so on, to induce the great mass of ordinary men and women to see themselves and the emerging world in a new light, causing them to impose upon themselves duties and obligations towards posterity which reflect a true reverence for life. Population control in respect of quantity must plainly be the focal point of any effective plan

for progress conceived on a global scale, yet how far are we from even approaching that. The question of quantitative control, as Huxley shows is closely related to that of eugenic, qualitative control. As he remarks it is thanks to sanitation, modern pharmacology, and the social conscience that more and more individuals who are afflicted with hereditary shortcomings are enabled to live to maturity and to reproduce their kind. In other words, the same causes which produce over-population, tend also to produce degeneration of the human stock. He epitomizes the position in saying that we are on the horns of an ethical dilemma and to find the middle way will require all our intelligence and all our good will. If any conclusion appears to emerge from all this, it seems to the present writer that a vastly augmented and co-ordinated programme of research into all aspects of the population problem, both quantitative and qualitative, is urgently called for, and that present efforts are ludicrously small in relation to the overwhelming and urgent need with which we are confronted.

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